



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

From: **Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator**

Meeting Date: **May 17, 2016**

Subject: **Report APRAC16-016
Nevin Park Community Garden**

Purpose

A report to inform of a request to establish a community garden within Nevin Park.

Recommendation

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC16-016 dated May 17, 2016, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

That the request to establish a community garden within Nevin Park be denied, and that alternate sites be investigated within the area.

Budget and Financial Implications

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of this report.

Background

In January 2016, the Peterborough Community Garden Network approached the City's Recreation Division with a request to establish a community garden in the City-owned Nevin Park. This was in response to residents in the Nevin Park neighbourhood who expressed interest in having a community garden established at that location.

City staff from the Divisions of Recreation, Public Works, Engineering, Legal, Planning, Transportation, Waste Management, Infrastructure Planning, Land Assets, and Heritage Preservation Office (archeology) reviewed the request and the merits of the site. No concerns were identified with the garden being established in the southern section of the park, as identified in Appendix "A" of this report.

Neighbourhood Consultation

An invitation was sent to approximately 120 residences surrounding Nevin Park, inviting them to attend a neighbourhood meeting at the Potters Guild building on Talwood Drive, on the evening of May 2, 2016. Twenty-five area residents were in attendance.

While there were no significant concerns raised at the neighbourhood meeting, several neighbours took a few days to review the concept, visit existing community garden sites, and provide input. There were eight neighbours who expressed a number of concerns with the garden being established in Nevin Park. Those concerns include:

- Nevin Park is small. The garden would eliminate the current uses of the space, such as children playing, dog walkers, and general use of the open green space;
- Nevin Avenue residents purchased their homes there, because it is a quiet dead end street. Noise levels, vehicle traffic, and on-street parking may increase due to daily gardening activity and occasional clean up parties;
- Rodents may be attracted to the neighbourhood, impacting neighbouring residential properties;
- Concerns with aesthetics, related to sheds, garbage bins, compost piles, garden waste, garden stakes throughout all the plots, etc;
- The \$20.00 plot fee may not be enough of an investment to prevent some plot holders from abandoning their plots, leaving the area unmaintained; and
- If the community garden site is not well maintained, residential property values may decline;

While staff recognize that community gardens can be a welcomed amenity in most neighbourhoods, it would not be desirable to situate one at a site that would result in creating tension among neighbours. Staff is recommending that a community garden not be established within Nevin Park, and that an alternate sites be investigated within the area.

Submitted by,

Rob Anderson
Recreation Division Coordinator

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Attachments:
Appendix A – Aerial Photo of Nevin Park, Showing position of the Community Garden

Appendix A

Nevin Park Community Garden Proposed Site

